

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1      *a1*      1. (amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device with at least one acousto-  
2                        electric converter or at least one electro-acoustic converter having an acoustic input or  
3                        output connected via an acoustic conductor to a coupling port on an outer surface of  
4                        the custom-moulded ear-plug shell, characterized in that the said acoustic conductor is  
5                        in the form of a channel extending through, and bounded by, material of the custom-  
6                        moulded ear-plug shell.

1                        2.(amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device as in claim 1, characterized in  
2                        that, over its length, the channel features varying cross-sectional dimensions or  
3                        shapes.

1      *a2*      4.(amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device as in one of the claims 1 to 2,  
2                        characterized in that, over at least a substantial segment of its length, the channel  
3                        extends essentially parallel to the outer surface of the custom-moulded ear-plug  
4                        device.

1                        5. (amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device as in one of the claims 1 to 2,  
2                        characterized in that the custom-moulded ear-plug device is a hearing aid.

1           6. (amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device as in one of the claims 1 to 2,  
2 *AZ* characterized in that the custom-moulded ear-plug device is an in-ear hearing aid and  
3           that the channel is part of a venting system for the ear drum.

1           7. (amended) Custom-moulded ear-plug device as in one of the claims 1 to 2,  
2           characterized in that at least certain segments of at least two of the signal-carrying  
3           channels extends in parallel fashion.

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